

**AMENDMENTS**

Please amend claim 26 as shown below:

1 1. (Original) An improved communication system comprising a customer  
2 premises equipment connected to a data network via a network connection, the  
3 customer premises equipment being operable to communicate with the data  
4 network when configured with a client network address, the customer premises  
5 equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to a configuration  
6 server connected to the data network to retrieve the client network address from  
7 the configuration server, the improvement comprising:

8 a temporary configuration server for responding to  
9 configuration messages from the customer premises equipment  
10 before the network connection is capable of connecting the  
11 customer premises equipment to the data network.

1 2. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 1  
2 wherein the network connection comprises a communications device for  
3 connecting the customer premises equipment to a local network, the local  
4 network being connected to the data network via a network interconnection  
5 device.

1 3. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 2  
2 wherein the temporary configuration server resides in the communications  
3 device.

1 4. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 2  
2 wherein the temporary configuration server resides in the network  
3 interconnection device.

1 5. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 2  
2 wherein the communications device includes a cable modem, the local network

3 includes a cable network and the network interconnection device includes a  
4 cable modem termination system.

1 6. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 5  
2 wherein the cable network is a bi-directional cable network.

1 7. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 5  
2 wherein:

3 the local network further includes a general switched  
4 telephone network;

5 the cable modem includes a telephone connection to the  
6 general switched telephone network; and

7 the network interconnection device includes a telephony  
8 remote access concentrator for sending messages from the cable  
9 modem to the data network.

1 8. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 2  
2 wherein:

3 the local network includes a network of the type selected  
4 from the group consisting of: ethernet and token ring;

5 the communications device includes a network adapter for  
6 the selected network type;

7 the network interconnection device includes a cable modem  
8 connected to a cable network and a cable termination system  
9 connected to the data network.

1 9. (Original) An improved communications system as claimed in Claim 8  
2 wherein the temporary configuration server includes a plurality of temporary  
3 network addresses with which to respond to configuration messages from a  
4 plurality of customer premises equipment.

1 10. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein  
2 the configuration server is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

1 11. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein  
2 the network address used by the customer premises equipment is an Internet  
3 protocol (IP) address.

1 12. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein  
2 the temporary configuration server responds to configuration messages with a  
3 temporary network address.

1 13. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 12  
2 wherein the temporary configuration server responds to configuration messages  
3 with a lease time for setting a time limit for the temporary network address.

1 14. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 13  
2 wherein the lease time is less than 10 seconds.

1 15. (Original) An improved communication system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein  
2 the data network includes a connection to the Internet.

1 16. (Original) A cable modem for providing a customer premises equipment with  
2 access to a configuration protocol server connected to a data network over a  
3 broadband coaxial cable medium, the data network having an interface to the  
4 broadband coaxial medium at a head-end of the broadband coaxial medium, the  
5 cable modem comprising:

6 a cable input/output interface for communicably connecting  
7 the cable modem to the broadband coaxial cable medium;  
8 a data input/output interface for communicably connecting  
9 the cable modem to the customer premises equipment; and

10 a temporary configuration protocol server for responding to  
11 configuration messages from the customer premises equipment  
12 before the cable modem is capable of connecting the customer  
13 premises equipment to the data network.

1 17. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the configuration  
2 protocol server is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

1 18. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the temporary  
2 configuration protocol responds to configuration messages with a temporary  
3 network address.

1 19. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the temporary  
2 configuration protocol responds to configuration messages with a lease time for  
3 setting a time limit for the temporary network address.

1 20. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the lease time is  
2 less than 10 seconds.

1 21. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the cable modem  
2 configuration protocol client declines to renew the temporary network address  
3 when the cable modem is capable of connecting the customer premises  
4 equipment to the data network.

1 22. (Original) A cable modem as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the data network is  
2 connected to the Internet.

1 23. (Original) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol  
2 server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network  
3 connection, the method comprising the steps of:

4 issuing a request for a customer premises equipment  
5 network address from the customer premises equipment to the  
6 configuration protocol server via the network connection;  
7 the network connection determining whether a connection  
8 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
9 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a  
10 temporary network address to the customer premises equipment.

1 24. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of  
2 sending a lease time for the customer premises equipment network address  
3 limiting the time of validity of the temporary network address.

1 25. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 24 further comprising the steps of:  
2 issuing a request to renew the temporary network address  
3 when the lease time expires; and  
4 the network connection determining whether a connection  
5 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
6 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an  
7 acknowledge message.

B1 1 26. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 when the network connection determines that the connection  
4 can be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection  
5 sending a NACK message to the customer premises equipment  
6 declining to acknowledge the request to renew the temporary  
7 network address;  
8 the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK  
9 message and sending a request for the customer premises  
10 equipment network address; and

11 the network connection communicating the request for the  
12 customer premises equipment network address to the configuration  
13 protocol server.

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1 27. (Previously presented) An improved communication system comprising a  
2 customer premises equipment connected to a data network via a network  
3 connection, the customer premises equipment being operable to communicate  
4 with the data network when configured with a client network address, the  
5 customer premises equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to  
6 a configuration server connected to the data network to retrieve the client  
7 network address from the configuration server, the improvement comprising:  
8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being  
10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection  
11 device; and  
12 a temporary configuration server residing in the  
13 communications device, the temporary configuration server being  
14 operable to respond to configuration messages from the customer  
15 premises equipment before the network connection is capable of  
16 connecting the customer premises equipment to the data network.

1 28. (Previously presented) An improved communication system comprising a  
2 customer premises equipment connected to a data network via a network  
3 connection, the customer premises equipment being operable to communicate  
4 with the data network when configured with a client network address, the  
5 customer premises equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to  
6 a configuration server connected to the data network to retrieve the client  
7 network address from the configuration server, the improvement comprising:  
8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being

10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection  
11 device; and  
12 a temporary configuration server residing in the network  
13 interconnection device, the temporary configuration server being  
14 operable to respond to configuration messages from the customer  
15 premises equipment before the network connection is capable of  
16 connecting the customer premises equipment to the data network.

1 29. (Previously presented) An improved communication system comprising a  
2 customer premises equipment connected to a data network via a network  
3 connection, the customer premises equipment being operable to communicate  
4 with the data network when configured with a client network address, the  
5 customer premises equipment being operable to issue configuration messages to  
6 a configuration server connected to the data network to retrieve the client  
7 network address from the configuration server, the improvement comprising:  
8 a communications device for connecting the customer  
9 premises equipment to a local network, the local network being  
10 connected to the data network via a network interconnection device  
11 comprising a cable modem connected to a cable network and a  
12 cable termination system connected to the data network, the local  
13 network including a network of the type selected from the group  
14 consisting of: ethernet and token ring; and  
15 a temporary configuration server to respond to configuration  
16 messages from the customer premises equipment before the  
17 network connection is capable of connecting the customer  
18 premises equipment to the data network.

1 30. (Previously presented) An improved communications system as claimed in  
2 Claim 29 wherein the temporary configuration server includes a plurality of  
3 temporary network addresses with which to respond to configuration messages  
4 from a plurality of customer premises equipment.

1 31. (Previously presented) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration  
2 protocol server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a  
3 network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

4 issuing a request for a customer premises equipment  
5 network address from the customer premises equipment to the  
6 configuration protocol server via the the network connection;  
7 the network connection determining whether a connection  
8 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
9 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a  
10 temporary network address to the customer premises equipment;  
11 sending a lease time for the customer premises equipment  
12 network address limiting the time of validity of the temporary  
13 network address;

14 issuing a request to renew the temporary network address  
15 when the lease time expires; and

16 the network connection determining whether a connection  
17 can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not,  
18 responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an  
19 acknowledge message.

1 32. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 when the network connection determines that the connection can  
4 be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection sending a  
5 NACK message declining to acknowledge the request to renew the  
6 temporary network address;

7 the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK message  
8 and sending a request for the customer premises equipment network  
9 address; and



10                   the network connection communicating the request for the  
11                   customer premises equipment network address to the configuration  
12                   protocol server.